



Bob Riley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



Steve Shivers
COMMISSIONER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathleen McGehee
334-293-7500 or 1-800-441-7607

State disability department recognizes national social work month

MONTGOMERY - During tough economic times or when life's challenges become overwhelming, social workers are available to help, providing resources and support to those who need it the most.

At the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS), social workers assist people with disabilities in identifying and accessing resources to meet their medical, financial, and emotional needs at home, in school, and at work.

March is National Social Work Month, and ADRS wants to recognize the accomplishments of social workers, whose efforts change and improve the lives of people with disabilities.

This year's theme – "Social Work: Purpose & Possibility" – highlights the special characteristics of individuals who choose social work as a profession. Social workers are purpose-driven, compassionate individuals who reveal the countless possibilities in a person's life.

"Social workers believe there are no limits to human potential, and use their talents to help others create better lives for themselves and for their families," said Wanda Ross, who is a social worker and provides professional support and assistance to the social workers within Children's Rehabilitation Service, a division of the ADRS .

A social worker's goal is to help people help themselves, and the majority of their time – 96 percent, in fact – is spent providing direct client services, according to the National Association of Social Workers.

Social workers must have the appropriate education, experience, and licensure to practice social work. They earn bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees in social work and must have a minimum number of hours of supervised fieldwork. More than 600,000 people in the United States hold social work degrees.

To find comprehensive information about the role of social work and where to go for assistance for these and other issues, visit the national website: www.HelpStartsHere.org.

At ADRS , social workers provide services in all of the department's major programs, addressing the needs of babies, teen-agers and adults with disabilities and their families.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.